

In re Appln. of VERSCHUEREN et al.
Application No. 10/068,312

AMENDMENTS

1. (Currently Amended) A method of lithographic printing comprising the steps of:
 - (i) unwinding a web of a flexible lithographic base from a supply spool, the lithographic base having a hydrophilic surface;
 - (ii) wrapping the lithographic base around a cylinder of a printing press;
 - (iii) applying on the lithographic base an image-recording layer comprising hydrophilic thermoplastic particles or an aryldiazosulfonate polymer which is removable in a single-fluid ink or can be rendered removable in a single-fluid ink by exposure to heat or light;
 - (iv) image-wise exposing the image-recording layer to heat or light;
 - (v) processing the image-recording layer by supplying single-fluid ink, thereby obtaining a printing master;
 - (vi) printing by supplying single-fluid ink to the printing master which is mounted on a plate cylinder of the printing press; and
 - (vii) removing the printing master from the plate cylinder.

2. (Original) The method according to claim 1 wherein the image-recording layer is a non-ablative image-recording layer which is removable with the single-fluid ink before exposure to heat or light and is rendered less removable by exposure to heat or light.

Claim 3 (Canceled)

4. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim ~~3~~1 wherein the image-recording layer further comprises a hydrophilic binder.

Claim 5 (Canceled)

6. (Original) The method according to claim 1 wherein the supply spool is located within the plate cylinder.
7. (Original) The method according to claim 1 wherein step (vii) is carried out by winding the printing master on an uptake spool which is located within the plate cylinder.

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8. (Original) The method according to claim 1 wherein the flexible lithographic base comprises a plastic support, a thin aluminum support or a laminate of plastic and thin aluminum.
9. (Original) The method according to claim 1 wherein the single-fluid ink is an emulsion comprising:
 - (i) a continuous phase comprising an acid-functional vinyl resin; and
 - (ii) a discontinuous phase comprising a liquid polyol.
10. (Original) The method according to claim 9 wherein the vinyl resin is a branched acid-functional vinyl resin having a number average molecular weight of between about 1000 and about 15000 and a weight average molecular weight of at least about 100000.
11. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 2 wherein the supply spool is located within the plate cylinder.
12. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 7 wherein the supply spool is located within the plate cylinder.
13. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 2 wherein step (vii) is carried out by winding the printing master on an uptake spool which is located within the plate cylinder.
14. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 11 wherein step (vii) is carried out by winding the printing master on an uptake spool which is located within the plate cylinder.

Claim 15 (Canceled)